

2005 TSRA Service Rifle Championship

Oct. 28-30 at Camp Swift, Bastrop, TX

After being side tracked by Hurricane Rita, the 2005 TSRA Service Rifle Championship matches were complete at a different site on a different date. But the results were essentially the same, great shooting and a great match. While the changes caused some problems for some of the shooters that were planning on shooting in September at Waco, the same changes made it possible for just as many to attend that were not planning on being there.

As with any change, there were many opportunities presented that were conquered by some very dedicated folks. If it had not been for the efforts of Col. Don Tryce in arranging for the use of the range with the Texas Army Guard at Camp Swift and then the assistance of Maj. Keith LaRue along with a couple of details of Guardsman that prepared the target frames, we may still be waiting to get this match completed. In addition, Charles Wallace spent several days at the range with numerous other local shooters finalizing the preparation. When it was time to commence fire, everything was in the proper place and ran wonderfully.

Having experienced help in key range positions makes a match run smoothly and everyone seems to have a more enjoyable time. Paul Laberge was the pit miester deluxe while Ken Gaby kept the firing line moving. With the additional help of Charles Jackson and Charles Wallace in the pits and next years match director, Dave Wilson, on the firing line, I couldn't have asked for a better crew to run this match. Thanks to all of these and to everyone else that helped getting things ready and during the match.

The President's 100 4-man team match was a fast moving match that gave twist to the normal course of fire. With only 10 rounds fired by each shooter standing, prone rapid fire and prone slow fire, a premium is placed on consistency.



The top shooter in the match, Robert Langham (297-9x, the last 3 shots standing were 9s) led his team, Blackfork – with David Keys, Justin Utley and Evan Hess, to the match win (1146-21x) over the second place All Guard team of Darrel Berry, Bobby Adams, Tommy Adcock and Mark Benson (1143-26x).

Friday's shooting finished up with the 3-man Infantry Trophy match that simulates ½ of a standard team that fires this match at Camp Perry. An all rapid fire match, it begins at 600 on a full silhouette with only 50 seconds to fire. The shooting progresses up to the 200 yard line and finishes on a partial silhouette. It's great fun and the competition is getting better each year. Following up on their earlier performance, it

was team Blackfork (714)– Langham, Utley and Hess, turning in a near perfect run to cruise to a substantial margin over team Tres Hombres (588)– Roger Sepaugh, Mark Woodard and Jeff Lin and third place team Triple "D" (563)– Dan Gilmer, Doug George and Dustin Shelton.

The Championship match got off to a good start with a light breeze and overcast skies but it didn't seem to hamper some fine shooting. Match 1 – Standing was won by Guardsman Darrel Berry with 197-5x as he pulled ahead of the pack. Match 2 – Sitting rapid fire was won by Keith Stephens with the high clean score of 200-12x. Match 3 – Prone rapid fire was also won by Stephens with his 199-6x. As the winds began to blow and the excuses flew, Glenn Edgard stepped up and fired the winning score of 192-5x in Match 4 – Prone slow fire. When the aggregate Match 5 was posted it was SFC Darrel Berry's 780-27x (State



Champion) on top of the list followed by Keith Stephens' 776-20x (1st Master) and Robert Langham's 776-19x (1st High Master). Only dropping a single point, the rapid fire aggregate was won by Keith Stephens 399-18x.

The remaining class winners were Tarleton State team member Kale Haschke (744-12) in the Expert class, WO Rick Tanner (739-13) in the Sharpshooter class and junior Jacob Wood (716-11) in the Marksman class. Also, we had 10 Master Unclassified shooters that were led by junior Tim Rivas (717-10x)



A couple of special recognitions are called for. The Amigos collected a box full of shooting supplies and accessories that were designated for the junior winners in each match but only one item per individual to spread the loot to the greatest number. Also, Maj. Keith LaRue brought some goodies from his brother, Mark, the owner of LaRue Tactical (

www.laruetactical.com),

manufacturer of AR accessories. Gift certificates (+\$100) and hats awarded in a random drawing of all the shooters present. The intent was to distribute the prizes among the shooters and not have a winner take-all awarding. Thanks to the Amigos and LaRue Tactical (Keith and Mark) for providing these items. It is great to be able to encourage everyone, especially the new shooters and those without a box full of trophies.



LaRue Drawing Winners



Jrs w/Amigos prizes

The attendance breakdown was 85 shooters of which 10 were High Masters (12%), 25 were Masters (29%), 18 were Experts (21%), 9 were Sharpshooters (11%), 13 were Marksman (15%) and 10 were Master Unclassified (12%). Only one female shooter, 14 juniors and a bunch of old guys.

The LEG match got underway promptly Sunday morning with 69 shooters (54 non-distinguished) fighting it out for those final points of the year. The tricky winds and the small target numbers seemed to pull the shooters into a pattern of being unable to concentrate on both problems and crossfires became too popular. But no matter how bad the conditions, someone steps up and comes thru. This day it was Keith Stephens (486-16x), Sam Miller (480-11x) and Mark Benson (478-11x) that grabbed the coveted medals. But it was Sam Miller, Jeff Lin, Bill Aten, David Wallace and Alan Wilson that picked up the points for the day. Of these, Alan Wilson completed his quest for his distinguished medal and status. So, the cycle starts again. New first time points winners get in line and start their race to one of the most desired recognition within the shooting community. Those first points are the seed that drives us to prepare, plan and practice in hopes that the next LEG match will bring more success towards the goal of becoming a "Distinguished Rifleman."



LEG point winners

Again, thanks to everyone for your help, donations, flexibility and participation.

